

ENQUIRER

ROOM RATE SCANDAL

Intensive investigations by our reporters have revealed the scandal behind the hotel room rates quoted by the Central Hotel Glasgow for the proposed Eastercon in 1986. Although there was considerable effort made to cover it up, it can now be revealed by us, exclusively, that the price of rooms for 1986 is actually LOWER than the rates for the same rooms quoted in the Glasgow Eastercon Bid Report 1 published in November 1982!

The management of the hotel declined to comment on the matter, but one member of staff said, off the record, that he thought it was because of intimidation by "that Albacon mob." He refused to say any more as he was afraid they might cut off his emoluments.

FOKT PLOT

Further probing revealed that "the Albacon mob" is in fact only a front for the much larger and sinister FOKT, or Friends of Kilgore Trout - an organisation so shrouded in secrecy not even its own members know what it's for. It therefore seems that the incredibly cheap hotel room rates are being used by FOKT as part of some major scheme designed to lure unsuspecting fans into its clutches. As yet there is no indication as to what the plan might be, except that it involves a hotel, alcohol and a large number of people.

by Cub Reporter
GLADYS OVER
in Darkest Glasgow



WEEKEND TORTURE

The Albacon mob has a long history of terror in Glasgow. On at least nine previous occasions members of the gang, operating under a variety of names, have held up to 800 people in a city centre hotel over a weekend and subjected them to a wide variety of cruel tortures. Survivors have spoken of being forced to stay awake for twenty hours a day watching terrible old science fiction films and having strange liquids poured down their throats. Others have not been so lucky, and have had to wear silly costumes for days on end and listen to Vagon poetry.

EVIL MEN

The known members of the mob are Ian 'The Nightingale' Sorensen, Bob 'The Beard' Jewett, Mike 'Molotov' Molloy, Chris 'Little Caesar' O'Kane, Dave 'Homebrew' Ellis, Vince 'J' Docherty and Bruce 'Bruce' Saville. All have long records of book-legging and running cons across the border. If you know the whereabouts of any of these desperados, approach them only with great care, and a loaded £1 pre-supporting membership for Albacon III in your hand.

* Why do they do it? -See article on p2

TODAY'S QUICK QUIZ

Re-arrange the following into a well known phrase or saying
FIFTH ALBACON ALBACON THE III

WHY GLASGOW FOR THE '86 EASTERCON?

Glasgow has already hosted two Eastercons - in 1980 and 1983. So why are we offering to run yet another? It's essentially because of popular demand, both from people who enjoyed the last two and from Glasgow fans who were not around at the time and want to be involved in running an Eastercon.

Early in 1984 a meeting was held for anyone interested in running conventions in Glasgow - over thirty people turned up. From the discussion that took place that night two things emerged - a steering committee to manage the Glasgow bid for the 86 Eastercon and, more importantly, a broad agreement on what the convention should be like. What was discussed revolved round the basic question: just what makes a good convention?

The conclusion reached was this: because fandom has many special interest groups within it, each with differing ideas on what makes a good con, there must be some attempt made to provide something for everyone. There are enough specialist conventions being held these days for there to be a real danger of fandom splitting into tiny factions. The Albacon III committee feel strongly that the Eastercon should be the one convention of the year that draws all the strands of fandom together. More than that, it should be a showcase to introduce the newcomer to what's available in fandom.

In practise, this means advertising the convention to attract SF readers who are unaware of the existence of fandom. It means catering for the first time con-goer as well as the fifties fans. And that means having a number of programme streams and a number of separate programme areas to hold them. The Central Hotel, where we propose to hold Albacon III, has four large function suites and a dozen smaller meeting rooms allowing flexible programming. And the Albacon committee has long experience of running multiple programmes. The regular summer convention in Glasgow this year had over 600 people attending who enjoyed films and talks in the Main programme, panels and quizzes in the Alternative programme and a mixture of the absurd and the absorbing in the Fan room. There was a computer room, video in the Media room, wargames in another room and spontaneous fun in the large bar. This was in addition to events like the Treasure Hunt and the Custard Pie Fight at the OK Corral! For Albacon III we will have, in addition to the above, a Repro room with all the facilities for fanzine production, as well as someone to explain it all to the novice.

OK, so the hotel has great facilities, but will the committee make full use of them? Or will it end up being just a great idea on paper that can't be put into practise? We think not. Over the last few years the Albacon committee have all worked together on many conventions. We are without a doubt the most experienced team organising conventions in Britain, and that

experience was gained running multi-programme conventions. If proof is needed of our expertise, think back to Albacon II - the 83 Eastercon. It is perhaps significant that it is the only Eastercon to figure in the poll of 'most enjoyable conventions' conducted by our friends on the Contravention bidding committee!

THE BIDDING COMMITTEE

As explained before, the members of the Albacon III bidding committee were chosen to run the Eastercon bid by a meeting attended by most of Glasgow's SF fans. We feel that we should emphasise that if Albacon III wins the bid the committee will be expanded from the present nucleus to allow us to draw on the wide range of talents available in Glasgow. Here, however, are a few details about the bidding committee members.

Bob Jewett - Chairman of Albacon II and Albacon 84, operations manager for Seacon 84. Bob has been involved in running conventions since 1978.

Chris O'Kane - Chris is one of the unsung heroes of Glasgow fandom. At most conventions he spends up to twenty hours each day behind a projector. As someone who once made his living by putting on film shows, Chris is a terrific help in planning the film programme.

Vince Docherty - Although Vince is the youngest member of the committee he has been attending conventions since 1978 and was chairman of the Invention committee, as well as producing the bulk of the publications. He is the chairman of Albacon 85.

Dave Ellis - a familiar figure at conventions. (Dave attends more or less every con in Britain!) With five years experience of organising programmes, producing progress reports and drinking twelve year old whisky, Dave is an essential element in the Albacon team.

Michael Molloy - Claims he is "a competent draughtsman" but is in fact an excellent artist and has been responsible for the layout of the much admired Albacon publications over the past two years.

Bruce Saville - A film buff whose only equal is Chris O'Kane. But he is not only concerned with films: Bruce is the man behind events like the Great Custard Pie Fight at Albacon 84 and the infamous Pyjama Party.

Ian Sorensen - A newcomer to fandom compared to the others, entering it in 1980. Ian has been the treasurer for all Glasgow conventions since Faircon 81 as well as working on publications for Albacon 84. When not working for conventions he produces fanzines and the occasional musical.

WHAT DOES A CONVENTION COST?

What does a convention cost you? The main expenses for most people are: accommodation, travel, food & drink and convention membership. As all the Albacon committee attend many conventions each year we are very much aware of the expenses involved and have resolved to do the best we can to assist members by keeping the costs down. Here's what we've managed so far.

HOTEL ROOM RATES

When Glasgow bid for the '83 Eastercon we were told by many people that it was the cheap room rates quoted in our Bid Report that had impressed them most. Well, we are proud to announce that for '86 we have secured room rates that are **EVEN LOWER** than those published by Albacon II in November 1982!

We have a firm offer of the following room rates for Easter 1986. All the rates are inclusive of full Scottish breakfast and VAT and are per person per day.

Triple room.....	£12.00
Twin/double with bath	£16.00
Twin without bath	£12.50
Single with shower	£17.50
Single without bath	£15.00

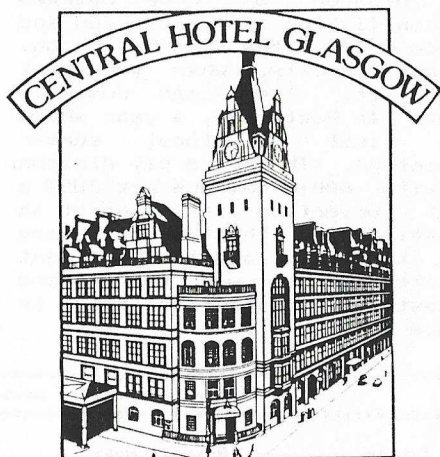
Compare these prices with current room rates, and we are sure you will agree they are very good. As you can see, it will be possible to spend three nights in the hotel for as little as £36.00! We will, however, seek further reductions - as we succeeded in doing for Albacon II.

TRAVEL

The Central Hotel is actually part of Central station where the trains from the South arrive, so there will be no long walk from station to hotel! In 1984 Season secured a terrific rail deal through the Theatre and Rail Concert Club. It has proved impossible for this offer to be repeated due to a change in the rules but we will keep looking for the best deal we can get, which in the fiercely competitive atmosphere of today should offer considerable savings. At the present time a Saver rail fare from London is only £31 return. The express coach service costs just £15 (or less if you are a student).

FOOD AND DRINK

Being in the city centre, the Central Hotel is surrounded by a wide range of cafes, restaurants and shops. Within the hotel there are two restaurants: the legendary Malmeson (a bit pricey, but worth it) and the new



Carvery where you can currently have an excellent two course meal for £3.50 or a three course meal for £4.50. In addition there will be bar snacks available all day and through into the early hours of the morning.

It is difficult to quote bar prices this far in advance but we are assured that they will be in line with outside pub prices, not standard hotel ones. To give you an indication, here's what the hotel are quoting for next year - beer 70p per pint, spirits 70p per fifth gill, soft drinks 30p. The bars will, of course, be stocked with real ale.

MEMBERSHIP

This is a tiny proportion of the overall convention expenses for members but we are still keeping it down to £6. As time goes on it may become necessary to increase it but we will endeavour to stick to a budget and hold membership costs down. We will not set out deliberately to make a huge profit.

Be assured that if we can make any further savings for our members we will do so. The management and staff of the Central Hotel are all fully aware of the requirements of a science fiction convention and are looking forward to hosting another Eastercon. We know that they will do their utmost to make Albacon III a huge success - after all, they entered a team for the Custard Pie Fight, and when we ran out of shaving foam the manager sent down to the kitchens for REAL custard! With hotel staff like the Central's we are unlikely to have any of the hassles that have afflicted other conventions over the last few years.

WHY ALBACON III - THE FIFTH ALBACON?

So why is Albacon III the fifth Albacon? It's because Albacon 84 and Albacon 85 come between Albacon II, the 1983 Eastercon and Albacon III, the 1986 Eastercon. Obvious, really, when you think about it. The Roman numerals denote an Eastercon, a year shows it's just a local summer convention. (Though to say Albacon 84 with 600+ members was JUST a local convention is doing it an injustice. Over thirty people came from the States and the Continent to attend what was the second biggest SF convention held in Europe this year!)

The important thing is to vote for Albacon III at Yorcon III. We'd also appreciate you paying a pre-supporting membership, as having your name (yes, YOUR name) on our list will help influence people to vote for Albacon III - unless you are a particularly nasty person, in which case we'll take your money, ask you to vote for us, but not tell anyone you're on our side! (Only joking, honest! - We publish the names of all our pre-supporting members in all our publications.)

VOTE ALBACON III AT YORCON III

Pre-Supporting members of ALBACON III [20 OCT 1984]

Lisa Tuttle
Marina Holroyd
Ken Slater
Joan Paterson
Colin Speirs
Steve McConnell
Vince Docherty
Hans Loose
Colin Goldie
Caroline Mullan
Susan Grose
Jaqueline Robinson
Neil Craig
James Brunton
Mark Meenan
Elda Wheeler
Kate Davies
Roger Robinson
Chris Sellar
Dave Ellis
Richard Edwards
Gwen Funnell
Andrew Irvine
Tony Hammond
Kevin Gallacher
Nicholas Coia

Russell Hoban
Henry Balen
Roger Perkins
Tibs
Bob Jewett
Ed Buckley
Oscar Dalglish
Roelof Goudriaan
Jette Goldie
Andre De Rycke
Steve Green
Pat MacLennan
Joyce Craig
Pauline Cowan
Mike Molloy
Urban Gunnarson
Celia Cockburn
Alan Blair
Mike Sherwood
John Paul Smit
Chris Holdstock
Undepoldus
Tom Taylor
K Whysall
David Anderson
David Hampton

Tim Illingworth
John Wilkes
Joy Hibbert
Ian Sorensen
Madeleine Campbell
Kevin Henwood
Chris Sustowicz
Martin Tudor
Simon Rudyk
Alex Stewart
Eamonn Patton
Christina Lake
Nigel Stevenson
Bruce McDonald
Iain Dickson
Teresa Hehir
Mark Turner
Peter Game
Paul McKeon
Maira Shearman
Stephen Davies
Delicia of Srod
Peter Wareham
Zweitze Klous
John Sayles
Ken Brown

Jim Barker
Joyce Slater
Dave Rowley
Fiona Spy
Keith Edmonds
Steve Lawson
Colin Fine
Jim Gallagher
Barbara Rudyk
Michel Feron
Bruce Saville
Colin Langeveldt
Ian McCord
Robin Houghton
Robert Collins
Alastair Neil
Chris O'Kane
Paul Vincent
Laura Wheatly
Iain C Thomas
A Cruttenden
Ray Thompson
Alastair Campbell
Larry van der Putte
Morag Kerr

At the moment we are only taking pre-supporting memberships for Albacon III - the Fifth Albacon. The money is used to pay for publicity material like this, and all money remaining after the bidding session at Yorcon III will be given over to the winning committee. (Naturally, we expect this will be Albacon III!)

If you wish to pre-support Albacon III - the Fifth Albacon then either pay £1 at our desk or send a cheque made out to "Albacon III" to:

Albacon III
c/o Vincent Docherty
20 Hillington Gardens
Glasgow
G52 2TF

Your pre-supporting money will be deducted from the cost of membership when we win the bid.

Produced by Hack Productions - a division of the Trout Corporation.
(C) Albacon III - the Fifth Albacon.

